

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 16 and 20 will have been amended to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter and to more clearly define the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

The claimed embodiment of the present invention is directed to sampling calling data provided by a switch to a service control point (SCP). The SCP receives normal queries from the switch including standard call processing data. That is, the switches generate the basic data for call identification and handling as they would for any call. The SCP then samples data, i.e., selects data similar to station message detail recording (SMDR) data that would be provided directly from the switches to an SMDR host in a conventional system. Without formatting the data into SMDR data, the SCP forwards the data to another network element. The data is eventually formatted into an SMDR format. *See* Specification, para. [0188].

In contrast, SBISA teaches the conventional process in which formatted data is generated at individual switches. Accordingly, each of these switches must be loaded with appropriate software and must have connectivity to a server and/or host in order for the formatted data to be accessed by the customer.

Therefore, several differences exist between the claimed invention and SBISA's system. First, SBISA's SCP does not receive the data in standard queries from switches. Rather, SBISA's switches format data in CDRs. Second, SBISA's SCP does not forward unformatted data. Rather, SBISA's SCP formats data into its own CDR before forwarding. Third, the SCP in SBISA does not sample data to be used in an SMDR formatted report. Rather, SBISA teaches that the SCP generates

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its own CDR, containing information relating to a specific requested service, whenever the switch indicates that the requested service requires a network element other than the switch.

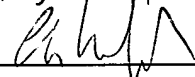
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections based on any combination including the reference SBISA is respectfully requested.

Any amendments to the claims not specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Reply or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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